Name:

Date:

**StoryCorps Project**

**Introduction**

As part of our public speaking unit, you will work on a StoryCorps assignment that allows you to explore the skill of storytelling as well as the skill of interviewing. As you have seen (or heard) in previous examples of StoryCorps stories, there are some common principles behind each story: One person describes an impactful moment(s) in his/her life through an interview with a family member, friend, or acquaintance. You will create a StoryCorps story of your own. In fact, you will work on two -- one as the interviewer and one as the interviewee.

**Summary of Assignment**

With a partner of your choice (it can be *anyone* in the 7th grade) create two StoryCorps stories in which you interview your partner about an important moment in his/her life, and then switch roles. You will need to select the best part of the interview for the final assignment.

**Requirements**

***As the INTERVIEWEE (person being interviewed)*:**

* Talk about a meaningful moment in your life in an interview with another student
* Speak clearly
* Elucidate -- avoid monosyllabic (one syllable) answers and responding “I don’t know”
* Take yourself and your story seriously -- this is not a time to be an entertainer or a clown, but to reflect on an important moment in your life

***As the*** ***INTERVIEWER (person doing the interview):***

* Choose a theme, and then choose a specific topic to talk to your partner about
* Talk to your partner: Tell him/her the theme you will be focusing on in the interview -- do not give any other details other than the theme; the interview should be as authentic as possible (i.e. the story is not planned out ahead of time)
* Prepare and ask interesting, thoughtful questions about the topic
* Stay focused
* Ask follow-up questions where appropriate
* Listen, and be patient -- it may take some time for your partner to open up to you
* Take yourself out of the story -- The **story** is the focus, not the interviewer

***As both Interviewer and Interviewee***

* Write a **three-paragraph reflection** on the StoryCorps process:
  + What was different about the experience of being interviewed vs. interviewing him/her?
  + Which did you prefer? Why?
  + Which was the greater challenge? Why?

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**Timetable For This Project**

**Thursday, April 16:** Introduce project

**Friday, April 17:** Start working with StoryCorps App; learn how it works

**Monday, April 20-Friday, April 24:** Record and edit StoryCorps projects

**Monday, April 27 and Tuesday, April 28:** Listen to them (you are not required to have yours available for listening)